

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/722,851

Examiner

Nancy Bitar

Applicant(s)

RAMAN ET AL.

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to response to election/restriction on 2/23/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 12-22.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17:2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 11/26/03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 3/15/07
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

JOSEPH MANCUSO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election of group II (claims 12-22) in Paper No. 1, filed 2/23/2007 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (M.P.E.P. § 818.03(a)).

Claims 1-11 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.142(b) as being drawn to nonelected Species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim(s).

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Ron Jacobs (50142) on 3/15/2007 on acting as applicants' representative, authorized the following amendment:

Please cancel nonelected claims 1-11.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

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3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: None of the prior art teaches or suggests the claimed invention. While White et al. (Computed tomography assessment of abdominal aortic aneurysm morphology after endograft exclusion, 2001, Jvasc Surg 2001; 33-S1-10) teaches measuring the maximal diameter (D) and cross-sectional area (CSA) of the AAA from axial computed tomography images and reconstructing the total volume, AAA volume minus the volume of the device and luminal blood flow diameter with respect to the aorta at the level of the renal arteries and within the device, and finding the distance from the renal arteries to the device, length of the device limbs, and the angle of the proximal neck were also determined at the same follow-up intervals after deployment with CTA in an interactive environment and visualizing the three-dimensional reconstruction and diameter and volumetric analysis; and Suzuki et al (US 6,819,790) teaches , receiving at least a training image; moving a local window across plural sub-regions of the training image to obtain respective sub-region pixel sets; inputting the sub-region pixel sets to the artificial neural network so that the artificial neural network provides output pixel values; comparing the output pixel values to corresponding teacher image pixel values to determine an error; neither teaches or suggests assessing stent-graft attachment sites in a vessel prior to endovascular repair by "calculating an irregularity index which is the ratio of at least a part of each said outline and the outline of said fitted shape corresponding to said at least a part of said outline" as variously required by the claimed invention; in order to quantify the radial endoluminal irregularity of aortoiliac arteries in preoperative CTA's thus preventing or reducing the endoleak . The Examiner finds no reason or motivation to combine the above references in an obviousness rejection thus placing the application in condition for allowance.

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4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Claims 12-22 are allowed.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee.

Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nancy Bitar whose telephone number is 571-270-1041. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (7:30a.m. to 5:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Mancuso can be reached on 571-272-7695. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Nancy Bitar

03/16/2007



JOSEPH MANCUSO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER